



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER
CARRIER AIR WING EIGHT
1640 TOMCAT BLVD STE 400
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23460-2230

5750
Ser N00/071
23 Mar 15

From: Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT
To: Naval Historical Center, Attn: Aviation History,
805 Kidder Breese Street SE, Washington Navy Yard,
DC 20374-5060

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT 2014

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12K

Encl: (1) Biography and Photo of Captain Cheever
(2) Biography and Photo of Captain Martin

1. Command Data:

a. Command: Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

b. UIC: 09748

c. Commander: Daniel L. Cheever, CAPT

d. Date Assumed Command: 9 November 2013

e. Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations:
Operational control over five strike fighter squadrons, one
electronic attack squadron, one airborne early warning squadron,
and two helicopter squadrons.

f. Permanent Location: Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana,
Virginia Beach, VA

g. Immediate Superior in Command:

(1) Operational: Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO

(2) Administrative: Commander, Naval Air Forces
Atlantic

h. Names of Squadrons/Units assigned under your operational
control:

Strike Fighter Squadron THREE ONE

Strike Fighter Squadron TWO ONE THREE

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Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN
Strike Fighter Squadron THREE SEVEN
Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHT SEVEN
Electronic Attack Squadron ONE THREE FOUR
Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR
Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron NINE
Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron SEVEN ZERO

(1) Subordinate Activities/Commands/Detachments CVW-8
exercises operational and administrative control over: None

(2) Subordinate Activities/Commands/Detachments.
CVW-8 exercises administrative control over: None

i. Type and number of aircraft assigned:

FA-18E	12	(VFA-31)
FA-18F	12	(VFA-213)
FA-18C	10	(VFA-15)
FA-18C	10	(VFA-37)
FA-18C	10	(VFA-87)
EA-6B	05	(VAQ-134)
E-2C+	04	(VAW-124)
MH-60R	11	(HSM-70)
MH-60S	08	(HSC-9)

j. Commands, Detachments or Units deployed onboard or
stationed aboard as tenant activities:

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron FOUR ZERO (VRC-40)

Det 2.

k. Number of personnel assigned:

Officers: 19

Enlisted: 23

Civilian: None

l. Command Point of Contact:

Name: CDR (b) (6)
Job Title: Operations Officer
E-mail: (b) (6)
Phone number: 757-433-2082

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Command Mailing Address:
Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT
1640 TOMCAT BLVD SUITE 400
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23460-2230

3. Commander's Assessment

a. Mission. The mission of Carrier Air Wing EIGHT (CVW-8) is to conduct offensive air operations against both land and sea targets, and provide for Carrier Strike Group (CSG) defense and sustained air operations in support of other forces as directed.

The responsibilities of CVW-8 are as follows:

(1) Execute duties of the Strike Warfare Commander for Carrier Strike Group TWO. Responsible for planning and executing strike operations, supporting theater commander air support requirements, and executing military operations other than war as directed by Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO or higher authority.

(2) Exercises operational control of nine aviation squadrons in executing the commander's intent of Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO or higher authority.

b. CVW-8 is a major operational command, reporting directly to Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO.

3. Chronology:

09 - 24 Jan 14	Participated in Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint (FST-J).
10 - 14 Feb 14	Pre-Deployment load aboard.
15 Feb 14	Embark USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) for nine month combat deployment.
16 - 18 Feb 14	CQ, VACAPES OPAREA
19 - 26 Feb 14	Translant with three scheduled fly days off Azores and Lisbon prior to Straits of Gibraltar transit.
22 Feb 14	Chop to Commander 6 th Fleet.

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27 Feb 14	Transit Straits of Gibraltar.
28 Feb - 3 Mar 14	Transit western Mediterranean Sea with flight ops off of Sigonella. Conducted Joint Air Operations in Maritime Strike Warfare (AOMSW) with USAF F-15E Strike Eagles from Aviano, Lakenheath, and Spangdahlem Airbases.
04 - 07 Mar 14	Port call Pireaus, Greece
07 - 08 Mar 14	Transit flight ops in eastern Mediterranean Sea.
09 - 12 Mar 14	Port call Antalya, Turkey
12 - 16 Mar 14	Flight operations in eastern Mediterranean Sea. During this time CVW-8 had two separate interactions with SU-30s and helix helicopter from the Russian carrier KUZNETSOV. Small team travel to Afghanistan and C5F to visit. USS TRUXTUN with HSM Det in Black Sea for presence and reassurance as Russia in Crimea. Motor vessel Moving Star takedown. USS ROOSEVELT/HSM-70 supporting SOF team.
17 - 18 Mar 14	Chop to Commander 5 th Fleet, transit Suez Canal. CAOC team in place (10 total, six man teams)
19 - 25 Mar 14	Transit Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and flight ops in Gulf of Oman (GOO)
26 Mar - 19 Apr 14	First combat operations period in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. HSM-70 support for Arabian Shark ASW exercise.

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20 - 21 Apr 14	Strait of Hormuz (SOH) inbound transit followed by flight operations in the Arabian Gulf.
22 - 26 Apr 14	Port call Manama, Bahrain. Supported Air Missile Defense Exercise (AMDEX) from 22-25 Apr.
27 - 28 Apr 14	Flight operations in the Arabian Gulf followed by SOH outbound transit.
29 Apr - 21 May 14	Second line of combat operations in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. AGM-65, GBU-54, 5 STRAFE Conductor.
09 - 20 May 14	Participate in Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) exercise BEACON FLASH with 2xFA-18E, 1xFA-18F, 2xFA-18C, and 2xMH-60S.
22 - 23 May 14	SOH inbound transit followed by flight operations in the Arabian Gulf.
23 May - 06 Jun 14	Participate in TSC exercise EAGER LION in Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, Jordan with 1xFA-18E, 2xFA-18F, 2xFA-18C.
24 - 27 May 14	Port call Jebel Ali, UAE.
28 - 30 May 14	Flight operations in the Arabian Gulf followed by SOH outbound transit.
31 May - 14 Jun 14	Third line of combat operations in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM including Afghan runoff election surge from 13-14 Jun.
09 - 11 Jun 14	Supported Joint Air Defense Exercise 14-3.

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14 Jun 14	Conduct early SOH transit and position in North Arabian Gulf as directed by National Command Authority in advance of operations in Iraq.
15 Jun - 01 Aug 14	First line of combat operations in Iraq providing support to Defense of Iraq operations and over-watch of American Embassy personnel in Baghdad.
22 Jun - 18 Jul 14	Conduct Phase 2 MIDN 1/c summer cruise exposing 8 USNA midshipmen to a career in Naval Aviation.
22 Jul - 12 Aug 14	Conduct Phase 3 MIDN 1/c summer cruise for 5 USNA midshipmen.
29 - 31 Jul 14	Participate in C5F Continuity of Operations Exercise in support of NAVCENT.
02 - 06 Aug 14	Port call Jebel Ali, UAE.
07 Aug - 04 Sep 14	Second line of combat operations in Iraq providing support to Defense of Iraq operations and over-watch of American personnel in Baghdad. During this line period, CVW-8 supported Humanitarian Assistance operations in the Sinjar Mountain region and Amerli, along with operations to recapture and secure the Mosul Dam. Throughout this line period, CVW-8 conducted 51 kinetic strikes employing GBU-12, GBU-38, GBU-54, and AGM-65E against ISIS/ISIL targets. Conducted 24 straight days of flight operations prior to No Fly day on 31 Aug.
05 - 09 Sep 14	Port Call Jebel Ali, UAE.

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10 Sep - 4 Oct 14	Third line of combat operations in Iraq/Syria.
20 - 30 Sep 14	Participate in TSC exercise EAGLE RESOLVE Main Planning Conference in Kuwait on behalf of CVW-17.
23 Sep 14	CVW-8 led first coalition (5 Arab Nations) US Navy and Marine Corps strike into Syria as part of a Joint/Coalition effort against ISIL/ISIS. CVW-8 participated in effort to stop ISIL/ISIS from taking Kobane, Syria.
05 - 08 Oct 14	Port call Manama, Bahrain.
10 - 18 Oct 14	Fourth line period of combat operations in Iraq/Syria.
19 Oct 14	Conduct turnover with USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70)/CVW-17 followed by outbound SOH transit.
20 Oct 14	Conduct flight operations in CVOA Penn.
21 Oct 14	Port call Duqm, Oman.
24 Oct 14	Conduct flight operations in GOA.
27 Oct 14	Transit the Suez canal, chop to Commander 6 th Fleet.
29 Oct 14	Conduct flight operations and support DV operations south of Souda Bay. Additionally, in response to Russian Tu-95 Long Range flights, CVW-8 stands up alert package.
30 Oct 14	Conduct flight operations and support DV operations (including Commander 6 th Fleet) south of Sigonella.

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31 Oct 14 In response to Russian Tu-95 Long Range flights, launch alert fighters to intercept and escort potential overflight. Russian aircraft aborted their mission and fighters recovered.

01 - 04 Nov 14 Port call Marseille, France. During the port visit CVW-8 and GHWB hosted a Mil-Mil engagement with the French Navy to discuss lessons learned on operations in Iraq and Syria, as well as a luncheon attended by the US Ambassador to France.

05 - 13 Nov 14 Translant with a fly day in the vicinity of the Azores for proficiency and Functional Check Flights.

14 Nov 14 Deployment fly off.

15 Nov 14 GHWB Return to Homeport followed by 96hr special liberty.

01 Dec 14 VFA-37 receives Prepare to Deployment Transfer Order and joins CVW-8 for sustainment.

20 - 31 Dec 14 Holiday routine.

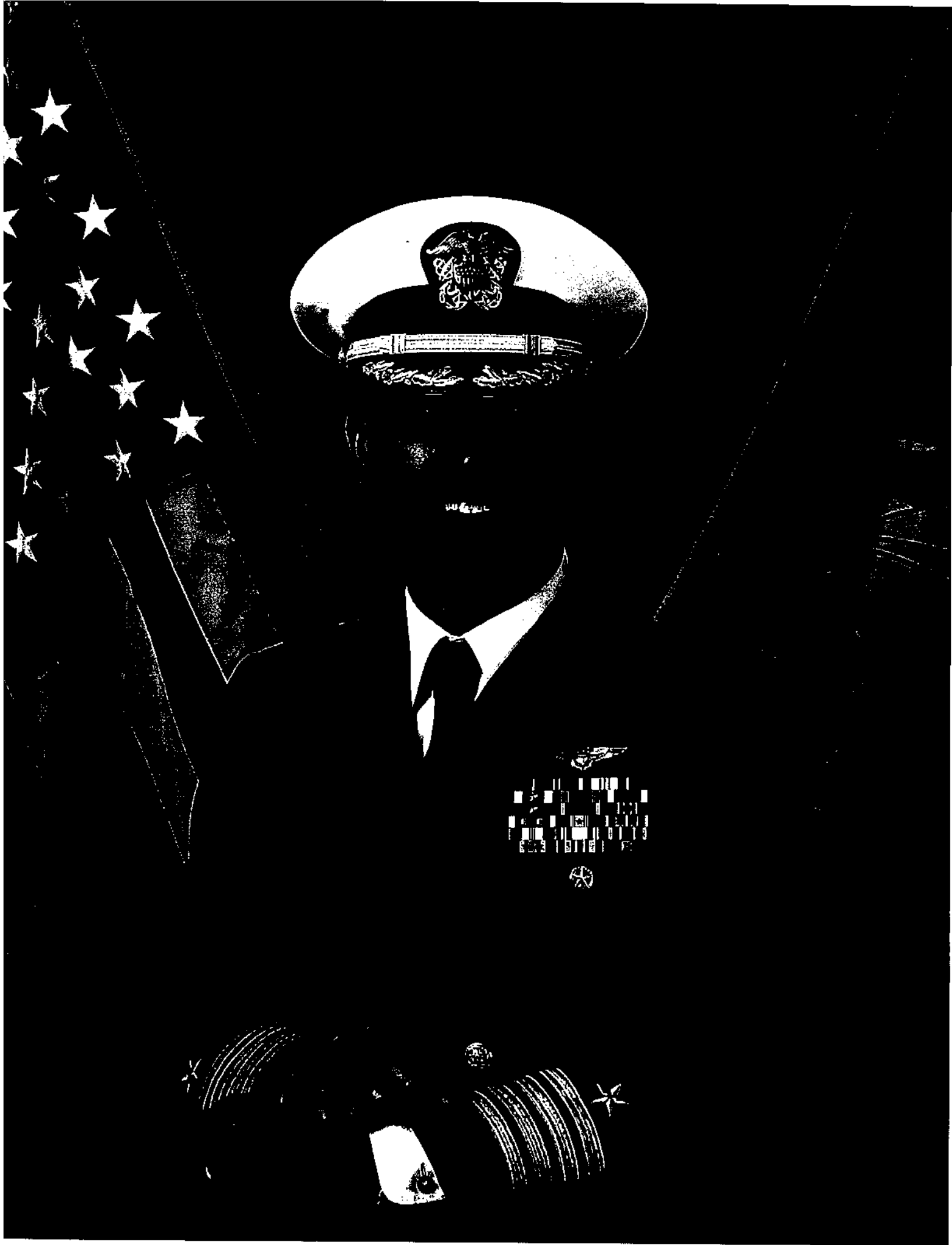
4. Squadron Mishap Free Years as of Calendar Year 2014:

VFA-31	-	Over ten years Class "A" Mishap free
VFA-213	-	Over eleven years Class "A" Mishap free
VFA-15	-	Over six years Class "A" Mishap free
VFA-37	-	Over eighteen years Class "A" Mishap free
VFA-87	-	Over five years Class "A" Mishap free
VAQ-134	-	Over thirty four years Class "A" Mishap free

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VAW-124 - Over twenty one years Class "A" Mishap free
HSC-9 - Over seventeen years Class "A" Mishap free
HSM-70 - Over five years Class "A" Mishap free


D. L. CHEEVER







CAPTAIN Daniel L. Cheever
Commander
Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

Captain Dan "Undra" Cheever is a native of (b) (6) and is a 1986 graduate of Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Business degree. After graduation he worked for a fortune 500 company. He joined the Navy in 1988 and after flying the T-34, T-2 and A-4 in flight school in Pensacola and Beeville, TX, he received orders to fly the F/A-18C Hornet in Lemoore, California.

CAPT Cheever's XO/CO tour was from June 2005 to May 2008, VFA-147, "The Argonauts", NAS Lemoore; flying the F-18C and F/A-18E assigned to CVW-9 aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). As CO, "Team ARGO completed a highly successful combat cruise in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, awarded the Battle "E", Michael J. Estocin and CNO Safety "S" and he was presented the CNAF peer leadership award. From June 2008 to April 2011, he served as TOPGUN and STRIKE Department Head and Special Assistant at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center where he received the Admiral Timothy "Timbo" Keating Leadership Award and the 2010 Tailhooker of the year Award.

He served as the Naval Amphibious Liaison Element for Commander, 6th fleet at 17th Air Force in Ramstein, Germany during Operation ODYSSEY DAWN. He then served as the Battle Director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center in Qatar. He then completed JPME II at the Joint Forces Staff College resulting in Joint Officer Qualification.

CAPT Cheever's other at-sea tours include tours with the VFA-195 "Dambusters" 1991-1995 in Atsugi Japan, aboard USS Independence (CV 62), and was awarded the Wesley L. McDonald Leadership award; VFA-146 "Blue Diamonds" 1998-2000 (SFTI); and VFA-147 "Argonauts" 2000-2002 in Lemoore aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) where he received the CNAF peer leadership award and the Order of Daedalians award.

CAPT Cheever's shore tours include VFA-125 in Lemoore where he received the Bruce Carrier award; instructor, Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN)/NSAWC 1995-1998 in Miramar, CA and Fallon, NV after TOPGUN moved to Fallon in June, 1996 to join NSAWC and then was selected as aide to General Richard B. Myers, 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2002-2004.

CAPT Cheever's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight (4 awards), and the Battle E (3 awards).



CAPTAIN Daniel P. Martin
Deputy Commander
Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

Captain Martin is a 1991 graduate of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned a B.B.A. in Accounting and an officer commission through Georgia Tech's NROTC unit. He earned his Joint Qualified Officer (JQO) designation at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA and a Master of Arts Degree in International Security Affairs from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI.

CAPT Martin completed flight training in Meridian, Mississippi in December 1994 and reported to NAS Lemoore, California, for pilot training in the FA-18 Hornet.

CAPT Martin served as the commanding officer of the "RAGIN' BULLS" of VFA-37 until July 2011. While CO, the Bulls deployed with Carrier Air Wing THREE on board USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN 75) to the 5th Fleet AOR in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. Post deployment, the Bulls earned the 2010 CNAF Battle 'E' and the CAPT Michael J. Estocin Award, annually given to the strike fighter squadron with the greatest professional reputation, aggressiveness, and operational performance. They also earned the Top Hook Award for cruise, and the 2010 Retention Excellence Award. CAPT Martin relinquished command having accumulated more than 4000 flight hours and 600 carrier landings.

CAPT Martin's other sea duty assignments include a JO tour with the "DAMBUSTERS" of VFA-195, forward deployed in Atsugi, Japan. Attached to CVW-5 and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), the squadron made deployments in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, Taiwanese Contingency Operations and the U.S. presence near North Korea. In 2004 he returned to the fleet as a Department Head with the "WILDCATS" of VFA-131. He joined the squadron and CVW-7 while on station in the Arabian Gulf on board USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) and involved in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He served as the Wildcat's safety officer, maintenance officer and operations officer.

CAPT Martin's first shore tour was with the "GLADIATORS" of VFA-106 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, as an FA-18 instructor pilot and Landing Signal Officer (LSO). In September 2000, CAPT Martin was selected to the US Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. He served as the narrator (#7), the opposing solo (#6), and the lead solo and operations officer (#5) for the 2001 through 2003 show seasons.

CAPT Martin has held two staff officer assignments. The first was his joint / international assignment to Headquarters, Supreme Allied Command Transformation working directly for the Chief of Staff. Most recently, he served as the Congressional Liaison for all Naval Aviation Programs at the Navy's Office for Legislative Affairs in Washington, DC.

CAPT Martin's personal decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Air Medal (3), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), and various unit and campaign awards.